

Editorial

Imphal Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Blockaded mentality

The potential for growth and prosperity in terms of the natural wealth the North Eastern region of the country holds has been much documented and discussed. And yet, the possibilities and potentials remain a tantalizing mirage just out of grasp for the people in these regions. The reasons? among others, the relentless politics of geography and ethnicity being perpetuated by various communities as and when convenient to assert their claims. The most notable manifestation of this unfortunate phenomenon is the incessant blockades and disruptions being carried out along the lifelines of the state since decades, and evidently increasing in frequency due to the apparent effectiveness of the method which in turn is a consequence of the indifferent and lackadaisical attitude of the state government, the cause for such disruptions being of little significance to the perpetrators or the administrators. But what could be so important and grave a matter that an entire state had to be held to ransom and its throat strangled for even months at a stretch?

The current 'indefinite blockade' being imposed by the UNC to thwart any move by the state government to declare Sadar Hills a full-fledged district is, to put mildly, mindless meddling spearheaded by a few vested elements who are misleading the naïve public by painting a communal tinge to the whole exercise. If the move can smoothen out administrative glitches and enable expediting of pending work, shouldn't that be the aspiration for every Manipuri in the state- whatever be the faith, community or caste one may belong to? And when 'warnings' are issued against the state government declaring in no uncertain terms the untouchability of the land or holdings of a particular individual or community over which the UNC holds sway, what does such pronouncements which are nothing but a blatant threat say about the state government? And why hasn't the state government been able to come up with a definite plan to settle the festering issues, including the demand for Jiribam to be a separate district till now, despite the continued use of the highways by the agitating groups as a convenient pressure point to have their way? Why is the Ibobi government still reluctant to press for the implementation of the Highway Protection Force which was agreed to be raised in principle by the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh? Or worse still, why does it take more than two weeks to sit up and take any notice of the gradually depleting stocks of essential supplies despite repeated experiences of such disruptions? Why delay the inevitable exercise of escorting back the loaded trucks who are left stranded along the national highways and left to fend for themselves for days, weeks and even months? Is laying a wreath on the memorial of the departed drivers on Driver's Day its way of showing respect and concern by the state government?

Isn't it time enough for calling a spade - a spade and stop beating around the bush? Those who are challenging the stability and progress of the state should be dealt with in such manner that only genuine concerns may be brought up for public debate and discussion. For the central and state governments, overindulging a particular section of the public or society with velvet gloves will only invite unrest and derision. Meanwhile, for those groups or gangs trying to shout down the voice of reason from the high ground (literally as well as figuratively), perhaps it would do good to try and open up to the bigger issues rather than blockading their own mentality in their quest to contain others.

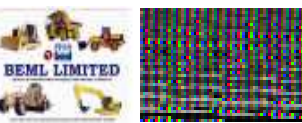
MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT NOTIFICATION

Dated, the 15th November, 2016

No. 1/13(11)/2016-LA (E) Pt.2: The following are the Roll Nos. of the successful candidates for appointment to the 2(two) vacant post of Legal Assistant in the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat. Roll Nos. (in order of merit) 83, 90.

Sd/-
G. Tapankumar Sharma
Deputy Secretary (Admn.),
Manipur Legislative Assembly
Secretariat

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National & International News

Demonetisation a crusade against corruption & black money: PM

PTI New Delhi, Nov 15: Asserting that the government has launched a "crusade" against corruption and black money by demonetisation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today sought opposition's cooperation while his rivals called the decision ill-prepared and hasty, causing "economic chaos". Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad alleged the decision to invalidate Rs 1000/500 currency notes was leaked in advance to some people, including BJP leaders, and called it probably the "biggest scam". He, however, added that his party is not for its rollback.

In his concluding remarks at the all-party meeting on the eve of the Winter Session, Modi spoke in support of simultaneous Lok Sabha and state assemblies polls and that there should be state-funding of elections as he asked parties to debate the issue. The government is willing to discuss all issues and answer the questions raised by the opposition, Modi said, hoping for a fruitful session as he recalled the passage of the GST Bill in the last session with the cooperation of all parties. "We have launched a crusade against corruption, black money and fake currency, which is also

behind cross-border terrorism. All parties should come together on this issue of national interest," he said. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar briefed the reporters about Modi's remarks. Speaking about simultaneous polls, he said, "A crucial problem is how to make political funding transparent. How to implement state funding of elections. Let all political parties debate it and come to a conclusion. Let's remove the question mark which exists against those in public life. "Polls happen separately. Let there be one election, simultaneous elections," he said, seeking a consensus on the issue.

1 soldier killed in gunfight between terrorists, security forces

ANI Soper, Nov. 16: In an encounter between security forces and terrorists on Wednesday in Soper, Jammu and Kashmir, one policeman was killed on Wednesday. A gunfight broke out between the security forces and the terrorists at Marwal forest area of Zalora in Soper. The gunfight is currently underway. Earlier, on November 7, a terrorist was neutralised and an Army personnel had sustained injuries after a massive gunfight broke out in Shopian. An Army jawan was killed in a ceasefire violation in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on November 6. The firing from Pakistan came hours after an Indian soldier was killed and a civilian was injured at the RS Pura Sector.

Give Bengali-Hindu migrants refugee status, says Sarma

ANI Agartala, Nov. 16: Bharatiya Janata Party leader and convener of the North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) Himanta Biswa Sarma has recently said that the Bengali-Hindu population who are victims of partition should be granted citizenship or refugee status throughout India. He, however, made it clear that the Assamese should get protection under Clause VI of the Assam Accord to protect and preserve their cultural, heritage and existence. "Our country was divided on religious lines so Hindus never

wanted to be citizens of Pakistan; they were forced to become citizens of Pakistan. So, if somebody had migrated out of religious persecution, and not only Hindu, even Christian, Sikh, Persian anybody, and if they have been persecuted, and they have come to our country, then we have to give them their due," he said. "At the same time as far the people of Assam are concerned, we also need protection because we have to make sure that our land, our identity and our culture remains intact. So, yesterday our national general secretary of the BJP he started a

deliberation with the people of Assam on how to take both issues hand-in-hand. You give citizenship or refugee status to the Bengali Hindu population not only in Assam but at the same time give political, constitutional and administrative save guard to the indigenous people of Assam," he added. The BJP leader, however, avoided speaking on what would be the fate of the migrant Muslim population in Assam. Assam has been one state where the issue of illegal migrants from Bangladesh is a burning issue for the last few decades.

Arunachal State Medical Council to protest against Centre for setting up National Medical Commission

ANI Itanagar, Nov. 16: Expressing solidarity with the Indian Medical Council (IMC), its Arunachal unit has decided to join a nation-wide protest against the Centre's move to establish a National Medical Commission (NMC). IMA State Unit, Secretary Dr. Jago Ori claimed that the central government is attempting to control an autonomous body by replacing the Indian Medical Council with the NMC. The IMA state unit said that the medical profession has reasonable autonomy and flexibility to keep pace with rapidly advancing science, and therefore, is strongly opposed to the NMC replacing the IMC, as it would only act as an administrative regulator. The IMA state unit described the NMC move as a retrograde and unacceptable step, but also advocated the need for a revamp and reformulation of the IMC.

Pak holds military exercise close to Indian border

PTI Islamabad, Nov 16: Pakistan is conducting a military exercise in a strategically located area bordering India, with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the army chief reviewing the readiness of the army and the air force to deal with any situation amid growing tension with India. The manoeuvres are taking place near border close to Bahawalpur town in Punjab province. Officials said that the Prime Minister is chief guest at the exercise. Army chief General Raheel Sharif will also witness the exercise. Helicopter gunships and ground

troops will take part in the exercise, which comes just days after seven Pakistani soldiers were killed along the LoC. The exercise shows the state of readiness of Pakistani military to deal with any situation arising out of recent tension with India, according to security officials. Prime Minister Sharif said yesterday that Pakistan cannot be bullied by Indian "tactics" and its restraint should not be "misunderstood" as weakness, warning that his country was fully capable of defending against "any belligerence".

Expressing grief over the death of the seven soldiers, Sharif had said deliberate escalation of tension along LoC by Indian forces is a threat to regional peace and security. "It is also a futile attempt of the Indian authorities to divert the world's attention from the worst kind of atrocities they are committing" in Kashmir, he had said.

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT NOTIFICATION

Dated, the 15th November, 2016

No. 1/13(11)/2016-LA (E) Pt.3: The following are the Roll Nos. of the successful candidates who have qualified for interview/viva-voce for appointment to the 7(seven) vacant posts of Reporter Grade-III as per the written examination held on 13th November, 2016 at 11am in the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

Unreserved:
Roll Nos. (Not in order of merit): 10, 19, 21, 23, 27, 53, 71, 79, 81, 85, 86, 88, 90, 100, 103, (Total-15 Candidates)
Scheduled Tribe (ST):
Roll Nos. (Not in order of merit): 08, 13, 24, 54, 67, 87, (Total-6 Candidates)
The above qualified candidates are, therefore, informed to appear in the interview/viva-voce to be held on Thursday, the 17th November, 2016 at 11am in the office room of the Director, Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat along with their original certificates/testimonials without fail.

Sd/-
G. Tapankumar Sharma
Deputy Secretary (Admn.),
Manipur Legislative Assembly
Secretariat

Suicide bomber kills four in Kabul

Kabul, Nov. 16: A suicide bomber on foot struck a government vehicle in Kabul Wednesday, killing at least four people and wounding 11 others, officials said, in the latest attack in the Afghan capital. No insurgent group has so far claimed responsibility for the bombing during morning rush hour, which comes as the Taliban are intensifying nationwide attacks on the Western-backed government. "A suicide attacker on foot

targeted a vehicle belonging to security forces in downtown Kabul, leaving four people dead and 11 others wounded," interior ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi told AFP. He added that two security officials were among the dead in the bombing, which occurred close to the defence ministry. Another security official told AFP the targeted vehicle belonged to the government's VIP protection unit. The assault underscores rising insecurity in Afghanistan nearly two years after US-led NATO forces formally ended their combat operations.

Policeman killed in encounter

PTI Srinagar, Nov 16: A policeman was killed today in an encounter with militants in the forest area of Baramulla district of Kashmir, police said here. Security forces launched an anti-militancy operation in Marbal village of Zalora area in Baramulla district in the wee hours following information about presence of ultras there, a police official said. He said one policeman was critically injured in the gunfight with militants and taken to military hospital in nearby Kupwara district. However, the injured cop succumbed later on. The operation was going on till reports last came in, the official added.

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NSCN-IM reacted to Kaka D. Iralu articles.....

"In January 1980, an emergency national workers meeting was held at Nokha where the murder of NNC by the pro-Shillong Accord NNC was widely discussed. The Naga politics does not end with NNC. NNC was made for the Nagas and not vice versa. NNC failed to uphold the principle of the Nagas, which called for formation of a new organization. Liberation of a people without an organization is a wishful thinking. Therefore, a national assembly was held at Tonu where the National Socialist Council of Nagalim was formed and declared

on 30th January 1980 by the national assembly. "Where was Mr. Kaka D. Iralu when the nation was placed in the danger of subjugation by the aggressors through the traitorous Shillong Accord? Where "was he when NSCN fought against the enemies of all shades in the east and west for decades? Where was he when NSCN leadership lobbied for international support in Europe, USA, Asia, Australia and Africa? Where was he when NSCN leadership advocated for the cause of the Nagas in the human rights

meetings of the UN? Where was he when NSCN and Government of India signed cease-fire agreement in 1997? Where was he when government of India and NSCN signed the historic 'Framework Agreement'? Does he know that NNC has been derecognized by the sympathizer countries? Doesn't he know that NSCN is recognized by the GoI and the world? For your kind information, NSCN is a recognized entity. NSCN is for the Naga people and it will be in years to come", the MIP of GPR/NSCN said.